

# America's

# FUTURE

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## ENVELOPING AND UNDERHANDED

Last week I mentioned a document recently issued by the Senate Internal Security Committee. It was prepared by Eugene Lyons, who is a real expert on the Soviet Union - not one of those supposed experts who become authorities on Russia after a three-weeks tour. As I reported, he warns against the distorted and uninformed views about Communist Russia which we are now hearing from these self-appointed 'experts.'

For instance, you may recall the nine American governors

who spent three weeks on an officially supervised tour of Russia. They came back and announced (all nine of them, mind you) that the Soviet people have no desire to abandon their system of government and economy. Mr. Lyons points out that there is a great deal of documented evidence to the contrary - he quotes some of it. But these nine governors evidently did not bother even to read a book or two before they went to the Soviet Union.

However, the amazing thing

is that not a single one of these governors seemed to realize how fantastic his statement was. Did they expect any Soviet citizen to confide in them his dissatisfaction with communism? This is something a Russian does not even confide in his own family. If he mentions it to another Russian, he is liable to wind up in jail, or in a forced labor camp. It is easy to understand why none of the comparative handful of Russians whom these governors met, complained to them about the Soviet regime. Yet these seemingly sensible Americans come home and do a beautiful propaganda job for Khrushchev by declaring that all his people are happily satisfied with their system.

While we're on this sub-

ject, the Internal Security Committee has just issued another valuable document. It is about Soviet propaganda techniques. With all the meetings, conferences, and summits now going on with the Red bosses, there is a paragraph in this testimony which ought to be implanted in the minds of our leaders. Here it is:

"Soviet diplomacy... is one of the principal spheres of Soviet propaganda. Every form of exchange between communist and other countries, whether diplomatic, cultural, commercial, technical, or athletic, is conceived and worked out with propaganda in mind - not of course open propaganda for communism, but propaganda of an indirect, enveloping, underhanded kind for pro-Soviet views."

## REDS AND RELIGION

Because of the recent controversy over an Air Force Manual which called attention to communist infiltration of a great church organization, there is further interesting testimony in the document just mentioned. Incidentally, this report of the Internal Security Committee was originally prepared by a Frenchwoman - an authority on Soviet

propaganda - for the Atlantic Treaty Association. Here is what she says about the communists and the churches:

"Contrary to what might be expected, churches are also highly infiltrated. In France nearly 50 percent of the Catholic press... have become relays of pro-Soviet views... In the United States, the first great manifesto for

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recognition of the Communist Peiping government originated with a religious association, which includes 8,000 ministers... In 1955, a former member of the French Communist Party revealed that in 1936 Moscow sent out an order to have carefully selected members of the Communist Youth enter seminaries and become priests... In the Mongolian Republic the Soviets have set up a seminary to train Buddhist lamas who spread throughout Asia." And here is a sentence from this important testimony which every American should keep always in his mind: "Infiltration of all churches is one of the major tasks of the Soviet propaganda apparatus."

## BUREAUCRATS AND THE SCHOOLS

For a number of years we have been engaged in a running battle on the subject of federal aid to education. Those who argue in favor of federal aid are a mixture of different groups. There are those who think the states and localities - which have always managed to support the schools - can no longer do so adequately. These people think teachers are underpaid, and the only way to get better pay is from the national government. These groups are led by the biggest school lobby in the United States - the National Education Association. They always make dire predictions about what will happen to our educational system if the federal government does not come to its aid. But they are forced to keep changing their prophecies of doom, because none of them ever comes to pass.

Also among those who yell loudest for federal aid to the schools are open and secret socialists. They really believe education should be under the control of the federal bureaucrats. They know the American people can never be brought willingly to turn

over control of their schools to Washington. So these socialist-minded people favor federal aid because they see in it an opening wedge for federal control.

Of course there are those who claim that the government can give money to the schools but not control them. But, as many authorities in and out of education have pointed out, this is ridiculous. There is no such thing as federal aid without federal control.

However, the important point about this subject of federal aid to schools is: What happens when the bureaucrats start monkeying with education? A while back, Congress passed what is known as the National Defense Education Act. It puts the federal bureaucrat into education at the college level. Congress allowed itself to be scared by the Soviet sputniks into passing the Act. The idea was to pep up American scientific and engineering education so we could compete with the Russians. This is the act, incidentally, which has gotten so much notice because a handful of college administrations kicked up a big fuss about its loyalty-oath requirement. But there are other parts to the Act, and

maybe it will have been worthwhile if we take to heart the few examples which have already appeared of how federal bureaucrats operate when they deal with education.

One thing the Act is supposed to do is to award scholarships to students who specialize in subjects which will help us out-sputnik the Russians - notice the Act is called the *National Defense Education Act*. Well, the federal bureaucrats awarded five scholarships at one university for advanced study in folklore! Another college got two scholarships in child development. Bear in mind this is carried on with your money -in the name of national defense. There were a batch of scholarships to other colleges for such necessary defense objectives as ceramics, studies in theatre, dramatic arts, and home economics!

Another project of the federal bureaucrats - again with your money -is a nationwide 'talent' test. It is being given to nearly half a million high-school students in an effort to turn up talented college material. At one high school, after taking this test dreamed up by the federal bureaucrats, the kids

declared it was such a snap that they didn't have to use their brains at all. Here are only two samples of the questions:

'What is a comb used for?' Three answers are given (the student to circle the correct one): 'The teeth, hair, or toes.' Remember, this is designed to turn up future

scientists. Another question is: 'Which of these is alive? A blackboard, a shoe, a cat?'

Perhaps the cat in that so-called test may be alive. But this will give you just a small idea of what we can expect if we allow our schools to fall into the hands of the dead cats in the federal bureaucracy. - John T. Flynn

*Foregoing items covered in Mutual network broadcast 3/27/60*

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## Book Review LIGHTING THE DARKNESS

THE RIGHT TO LEARN by Glenn McCracken, 228 pages, Regnery, Chicago, \$4.50.

This is a clear, concise, and important book. It contains a report on an experiment - an experiment part of which should never have had to be undertaken. It began in New Castle, Pa., where it is now more than a dozen years old and therefore no longer really experimental. It has spread to a few other truly forward-looking spots. Or should we say backward-looking - back to the days when Johnny could read?

Here is proof that Johnny and Janie can be taught to read and to enjoy it - minus

'reading readiness,' 'group dynamics,' phony 'psychological' report cards, and deadening 'look-say' texts.

An essential part of the author's method is phonics. The 'newness' of his experiment consists in combining traditional methods with visual aids. Phonics, of course, is anathema to modern educationists who, in far too many schools, still are denying to far too many children a sound and basic education in the use of their own language. Under growing pressures and widespread criticism, they have begun to use a jot of phonics, which is somewhat like trying to cure a raging

pneumonia with a minute dose of penicillin. Up to now, the educational hierarchy has sneered at other successful methods of teaching reading with phonics. They say it is possible only where highly trained teachers are available. We wonder how they will meet this teacher-author's challenge. He has used his method - involving film aids, and what would be considered 'difficult' texts in the average school - to teach nearly all comers to read. And it is equally successful when taught by *young teachers right out of college*. In fact, the author offers to go into any school district in the U.S. using what has unfortunately become the standard modern method, and teach its children to read six months to two years above the usual level.

Will our schools accept his challenge? Sadly, there is little to indicate that many will. A superintendent of schools who visited the Soviet Union as one of a party of 64 American superintendents, recently told the American Assn. of School Administrators that Russian schools were old-fashioned because they taught the alphabet, phonics,

words, and sentences - in that order. The superintendents were happy to report that here in the United States we had discarded this approach long ago! They failed to reveal whether they were equally happy about the almost universal literacy in the USSR, compared with the growing illiteracy in the U.S.

So it remains up to you - to read Mr. McCracken's provocative comments on present methods of teaching reading, his detailed account of the New Castle experiment, and its remarkable results. There is nothing here which any ordinary citizen cannot understand - and then see to it that he and his children get a just return for the money he spends on the schools. That stake is big enough. The larger one is to light up the darkness in which the educationists are determined to keep the coming generations - the same darkness in which they kept so many of the current one. If you don't believe us, ask any dean of freshmen in any large college which is now receiving the products of the modern method of learning how *not* to read and write.

- Rosalie Gordon

*"National honor is national property of the highest value."*

- James Monroe

## COMICAL - BUT IS IT?

"Dear Mr. Senator:

"My friend over in Pima County received a \$1,000 check from the government this year for not raising hogs. So I am going into the not-raising-hogs business next year. What I want to know is, in your opinion, what is the best kind of hogs not to raise? I would prefer not to raise razorbacks, but if that is not a good breed not to raise, I will just as gladly not raise Berkshires or Durocs...

"I plan to operate on a small scale at first, holding myself down to not raising about 4,000 hogs, which means I will have \$80,000. These hogs I will not raise will not eat 100,000 bushels of corn. I understand you also pay farmers for not raising corn. So will you pay me anything for not raising 100,000 bushels of corn not to feed the hogs I am not raising?...P.S. Can I raise 10 or 12 hogs on the side while I am in the not-raising-hogs-business - just enough to get a few sides of bacon to eat?" - *from a letter to Senator Goldwater from a constituent*

## EARTHLY INFERNO

"No one as yet has made a (motion) picture, with which Dante's *Inferno* cannot compare, of the concentration camps, of the death-dealing transport trains of the MVD in that most fortunate of all countries, the Soviet Union."

- N.N. Krasnov, Jr., in his book *THE HIDDEN RUSSIA*

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